

## ABSTRACT

Optical device and method for protecting an optical communications route

A section of tapered optical fibre is provided to protect optical components from catastrophic damage that may propagate within an optical route. The tapered section functions as a fuse to arrest the propagation of optical power induced damage by leaking optical power from a waveguiding region to below a threshold, below which further propagation of damage is not supported.

10 Figure 1

FIG. 1  
is a schematic diagram of an optical device for protecting an optical communications route. The device includes a tapered optical fibre section (10) that functions as a fuse to arrest the propagation of optical power induced damage by leaking optical power from a waveguiding region to below a threshold, below which further propagation of damage is not supported.